EXHIBIT W

	Page 1			
1	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN			
2	SOUTHERN DIVISION			
3	D.L.; K.S.F.; and K.B., by and through her parent			
4	and next friend H.B.,			
5	Plaintiffs, Case No. 22-cv-00838 vs.			
6	Hon. Robert J. Jonker			
7	MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF Mag. Phillip J. Green			
8	Defendant.			
9				
10	DEPOSITION OF KE'AUJANAA SHEPHERD-FRIDAY			
11	Taken by the Defendant at 251 N. Rose Street,			
12	Suite 200, Kalamazoo, Michigan, on Tuesday, March 26,			
13	2024, commencing at 10:12 a.m.			
14	APPEARANCES:			
15	For the Plaintiffs: MS. JACQUELYN N. KMETZ (P83575) MI AECRES			
16	P.O. Box 705			
17	Ludington, Michigan 49431 231-794-2379			
18	For the Defendant: MS. KATHLEEN A. HALLORAN (P76453)			
19	(via Zoom videoconference) MS. TICARA D. HENDLEY (P81166)			
20	MS. AMANDA E. ZACK (P82326) Michigan Department of Attorney			
21	General Health, Education & Family Division			
22	P.O. Box 30758 Lansing, Michigan 48909			
23	517-335-7603			
24	DEDODEED DV. M. G. J. M. D. D. G. G. 4004			
25	REPORTED BY: Mr. Carl M. DePerro, CSR-4284 Certified Shorthand Reporter			

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1	TABLE OF CONTENTS	Page 2	Page 4
2	WITNESS:	PAGE	2 Tuesday, March 26, 2024
3	KE'AUJANAA SHEPHERD-FRIDAY		3 At 10:12 a.m.
4	Examination by Ms. Halloran EXHIBITS:	4	
5 6	Deposition Exhibit 1,	MARKED 50	4 COURT REPORTER: Would you raise your right
	Request for a State Complaint Investigation,	50	5 hand, please? Do you solemnly swear or affirm that the
7	October 3, 2019		6 testimony you are about to give in this matter shall be
8	Deposition Exhibit 2,	57	7 the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth,
	Model Due Process Complaint/Request for		8 so help you God?
9	Hearing Form, Date mailed: 11/22/2019	F.O.	9 KE'AUJANAA SHEPHERD-FRIDAY: Yes.
10	Deposition Exhibit 3, letter, Gina Alexander to George White and	58	
11	Gary Start, November 25, 2019		10 KE'AUJANAA SHEPHERD-FRIDAY,
12	Deposition Exhibit 4,	59	11 HAVING BEEN CALLED BY THE DEFENDANT, AND AFTER HAVING
	letter, Rebecca McIntyre to George White and		12 BEEN FIRST DULY SWORN, WAS EXAMINED AND TESTIFIED AS
13	Gary Start, April 18, 2020 w/attachment		13 FOLLOWS:
14	Deposition Exhibit 5,	62	14 EXAMINATION
15	Request for a State Complaint Investigation, January 25, 2021		15 BY MS. HALLORAN:
16	Deposition Exhibit 6,	69	
	letter, Rebecca McIntyre to George White and	- -	16 Q. Could you please state your full name for the record?
17	Jeffrey Thoenes, March 26, 2021 w/attachment		17 A. Ke'Aujanaa Shepherd-Friday.
18	Deposition Exhibit 7,	70	18 Q. And can you spell that for me?
	Model Due Process Complaint/Request for		19 A. K-e-'-A-u-j-a-n-a-a Shepherd, S-h-e-p-h-e-r-d -
19 20	Hearing Form, undated Deposition Exhibit 8,	70	20 F-r-i-d-a-y.
20	Complaint and Request for Special Education	70	•
21	Due Process Hearing, February 17, 2022		21 Q. Miss Shepherd-Friday, my name is Kate Halloran, I am an
22	Deposition Exhibit 9,	77	22 Assistant Attorney General. I represent the Michigan
	Order of Dismissal, June 17, 2022,		23 Department of Education. Have you ever been deposed
23	Lindsay Wilson, Administrative Law Judge		24 before?
24 25	(Exhibits Continued on Page 3.)		25 A. Have I ever been posed?
1	INDEX TO EXHIBITS (Continued)	Page 3	Page 5 1 Q. Deposed, yes, in a setting like this today where you
2	Deposition Exhibit 10,	78	
	504 Plan, Meeting Date: 5/5/2017		2 will testify and there is a court reporter here.
3			3 A. No.
	Deposition Exhibit 11,	82	4 Q. Okay. So just to reiterate, Carl is here taking down
4 5	504 Plan, Meeting Date: 6/6/2018 Deposition Exhibit 12,	83	5 everything that we say. And so it's important that
,	504 Plan, Meeting Date: 10/14/2019	03	6 when I ask you a question that you clearly say yes or
6			
	Deposition Exhibit 13,	85	
7	504 Plan, Evaluation Purpose/Plan,		8 that he can take down your answer. Try not to head nod
8	Initiation Date for Review/Plan: 3/2/2020		9 or gesture in any way. It's important that you
	Deposition Exhibit 14,	86	10 verbally respond.
9	IEP Team Report, Team Meeting: 9/24/2020		11 A. Okay.
10	Deposition Exhibit 15,	86	12 Q. If you don't understand a question that I ask you,
11	IEP Team Report, Team Meeting: 5/13/2021		13 please feel free to ask me to say it a different way or
11	Deposition Exhibit 16,	88	,
12	letter, Natasha Shepherd to David Schwark,	* *	14 tell me that you don't understand, and I can try and
	undated		15 say it a different way.
13			16 A. Okay.
1.4	Deposition Exhibit 17,	89	17 Q. If you need a break, please let me know. I will
14 15	First Amended Complaint, Jury Demand		18 probably have you finish the question that you are
16			19 answering, but we can take a break and slow down at any
17			
18			20 time that you need. Okay?
			21 A. Okay, no problem.
19			00 0 De besse en en este de fem en la fem en ent et ente do
19 20			22 Q. Do you have any questions for me before we get started?
19			23 A. My mom is here. Is it okay if she comes up?
19 20 21			
19 20 21 22			23 A. My mom is here. Is it okay if she comes up?

Page 30 Page 32 1 Q. Do you know for certain if she did? 1 So with me being hospitalized a lot during 2 A. I don't. 2 the school year, I would come back to school, you know, 3 Q. And I want to just make sure I know the time line of 3 I would feel better and I would come back school and the schools that you attended when you were in high 4 they would like oh, she is lying about her sickness, or 5 school. 5 she doesn't have sickle cell, she is lying. Or she 6 The school year 2016 to 2017, was that the 6 looks fine. 7 first year that you were in high school? 7 And I would always tell people, still to this 8 A. Yes. 8 day, looks can be deceiving. I might look like I am 9 9 Q. And where did you attend? fine, but I don't feel like I am okay. 10 10 A. Kalamazoo Central High School. So people, growing up people didn't know 11 Q. And how about for the 2017 to 2018 school year? 11 about sickle cell or they didn't know how I felt, 12 A. 2017-2018 I think it was Kalamazoo Central still. 12 nothing. They just bullied me. 13 Q. And '18 to '19 school year? Do you remember if that 13 I remember some girl, she was bullying me and was Kalamazoo or Phoenix? 14 14 she said oh, she is faking sickness. I am just like 15 A. That was Phoenix, definitely. 15 well, how can you fake a sickness? If you are sick you 16 Q. And the '19 to '20 school year? are sick. Period. It's no ifs ands or buts about it. 16 17 A. 2019-2020 was Comstock. 17 It's not faking nothing. 18 Q. And how about the 20-2021 school year? Where did you 18 And I guess they would state that because of 19 19 attend? my appearance or how I looked. I don't know how I 20 A. Comstock. 20 dressed. I don't know. But they would just bully me 21 Q. And how about 21-22 school year? 21 because of my, still to this day I get bullied. So 22 A. It was still Comstock from there on. 22 it's like, I don't know. 23 Q. What kind of school is Phoenix? 23 Q. And the teasing, did it culminate in a physical fight? 24 A. Phoenix is an alternative school. 24 A. Yes. 25 Q. Do you know what that means by alternative school? 25 Q. Tell me about that physical fight. Who was involved, Page 31 Page 33 1 A. Somewhat. what happened? 2 Q. How would you describe it? 2 A. Me and my three sisters from --3 A. I would describe it as -- I don't know what I would Q. Take your time. And we can take a break if you need describe it as because I wasn't even supposed to be 4 5 there. I don't know. 5 A. My older sister, Ke'Asia, she was getting tired of 6 Q. Do you know why you were moved to Phoenix? 6 people like bullying us. So some girl, the girl that 7 7 A. I don't. was bullying my sister Ke'Asia, I guess she said 8 Q. Was there an altercation at school that led to that 8 something about me, and she basically got all of her transfer? 9 friends to like put their hands on my sister. Like 10 A. Yes. 10 they basically contemplated on what they wanted to do 11 Q. Tell me about that altercation. 11 to my sister after class. 12 12 A. So the altercation that led to me going to Phoenix was, Because my sister had a class with her, and 13 well, from ninth grade on to the time I was at 13 after class my sister, we all three of us we had the 14 Kalamazoo Central me and my siblings were getting 14 same lunch period. And my sister, she was telling us 15 15 bullied. Why, there was no reason. about, you know, the girl in class and how she was 16 Q. Was there a physical altercation that happened because 16 saying like stuff to her, like not towards her, but 17 of the bullying? 17 about her. And like just nitpicking with her in class. 18 A. (Nods head.) 18 So after class there was lunch, we had lunch, Q. Can you tell me a little about it? Take your time? 19 20 A. There was no exact reason, but mine was because of my 20

and we was always together at lunch. So my sister, she came to lunch. She was telling me and my twin like hey, this is just happening in class and, you know, basically we were just trying to protect each other. Because now, as she was saying like she was, her and her friends were contemplating on doing something to my sister. They didn't know we had the same lunch period.

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doing that.

sickle cell. And people, they would bully me because,

sickle cell because I wasn't verbally saying oh, I have

well, I have sickle cell but they didn't know I had

a disability, because I just didn't feel comfortable

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- 1 A. What do you mean by that?
- 2 Q. Was anyone going to the school building for classes, or
- 3 was everyone doing school on the Internet?
- 4 A. Yeah, online. They were going to school online.
- 5 Q. And how about the following year, from fall of 2020 to
- spring of 2021? Was school 100 percent remote?
- 7 A. No, it was still online.
- 8 Q. So it was online that school year?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. Were there any in-person classes?
- 11 A. No.
- 12 Q. How did that go for you?
- 13 A. Not good. I still wasn't getting the help that I was
- 14 asking.
- 15 Q. And when you say not good, why was it not good?
- 16 A. Because I was still destined to receive my diploma, and
- 17 I was just a few credits away from receiving my
- 18 diploma. And after like COVID hit and I was
- 19 hospitalized, you know, I decided I am just going to do
- 20 my work online and submit it online.
- And I would ask my teachers, like hey, can I get help on this? I would ask guestions, and they
- either wouldn't respond or they just wouldn't help me
- 24 at all.
- 25 Q. Were you able to access the materials online?

- Page 40
- 1 time I had work to accomplish or get done I would log
- 2 on, I would try to get it done. And if I come to
- 3 something that I don't know of, I don't know how to do,
- 4 I would message my teacher, hey, can you help me on
- 5 this assignment. But there never was a response.
- 6 Q. How would you message your teacher?
- 7 A. It was like on the online portal. It was like a
- 8 message, like you can access with your teachers and you
- 9 can message them saying like hey, just contact them and
- 10 ask them any questions or things of that such.
- 11 Q. Did you try contacting them any other way?
- 12 A. Yes. Or I would contact my teachers through email.
- 13 Like if they don't respond through the online portal I
- 14 would contact them through email.
- 15 Q. Do you still have copies of those emails?
- 16 A. Yes, I should have copies.
- 17 Q. For the 2021-2022 school year was school back in person
- 18 for that school year?
- 19 A. No. I think school was out for the rest of that school
- 20 year.
- 21 Q. Okay. So you think it was 100 percent remote '20-21
- 22 and '21-22?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. Was it remote for everyone or did you just elect to do
- 25 remote'

Page 39

- 1 A. No. I was actually kind of like stumped with that.
- 2 Like I would tell them like hey, it's not letting me,
- 3 you know, submit this or whatever the case was. And I
- 4 would email them and say hey, can I get help on this
- 5 project or this assignment. It's not letting me do6 such and such. And they would be like they wouldn't
- 7 say anything. They wouldn't respond.
- 8 Q. And when you were asking for help, what do you mean by
- 9 help?

15

- 10 A. Like around the time after I was hospitalized and I was
- on bedrest I was asking my teachers like hey, can you
- 12 guys send me my work for this trimester. And it took
- 13 them a while to send my work. So when I did receive my
- 14 work I was behind.

So as I was trying to catch up I would ask

- 16 like hey, can you help me on this assignment? Like
- what are we supposed to be doing here? Like, you know,
- how am I supposed to go about this? And my teacher,
- she would not help me, she wouldn't answer my question.
- 20 She wouldn't even respond.
- 21 Q. Did you log in for any of the online classes in the
- 22 2020 to 2021 year?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. How often would you log on?
- 25 A. I logged on every day. Like any time I needed, any

- Page 41 1 A. No. It was remote for everyone after COVID. Comstock,
- 2 they shut down the school. So it wasn't in person at
- 3 all
- 4 Q. So Comstock switched to fully remote for everybody?
- 5 A. Yeah
- 6 Q. Besides the suspension that we talked about before you
- 7 transferred over to Phoenix, have you been suspended
- 8 any other times?
- 9 A. No.
- 10 Q. And are you currently enrolled in high school?
- 11 A. No.
- 12 Q. When is the last time that you were enrolled in high
- 13 school?
- 14 A. The last time, the last school year of Comstock.
- 15 Q. So would you say the end of the '22 school year? Is
- 16 that correct?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. And what made you decide not to finish high school?
- 19 A. I didn't decide not to finish because I still would
- 20 like to receive my diploma. Comstock, they just
- 21 weren't helpful at all. And any time I did ask for
- 22 help they would oh, well, yeah, I know KPS, they will
- 23 mention KPS. Well, why are you mentioning KPS when I
- 24 need help? I am confused. So it's like.
- 25 Q. What sorts of things did you want Comstock to do to

Page 42 Page 44 help you receive your diploma? was full or they shut it down because of COVID. 2 A. Could you rephrase that? 2 Q. Do you remember when you asked the principal at 3 Q. Yes. What sorts of things were you looking for the 3 Comstock about that? Comstock Schools to do in order to help you graduate 4 4 A. Like around 2021-2022 school year. 5 But you haven't asked since then? from high school? 6 A. Like help me with my work and getting those few -- I Yeah. was a few credits away from receiving my diploma. I 7 So do you have in any plans in place to receive a high 8 received a credit in one class, but it was just these 8 school diploma? 9 two classes that I was getting, I was not getting help 9 A. Not at the moment, but I would like to have plans in 10 in because teachers stopped helping. Like after COVID 10 order to receive my diploma. 11 it was just like you guys have the online portal, you 11 Q. When you were in school what was your favorite class? 12 don't need help. History and English. 13 Q. What's your understanding of how many more credits you Q. And why did you like those classes? 14 Because I like to write and I like to learn about like need to graduate high school? 14 A. 15 A. Like a few more credits. I think I was like at 20, 20 15 things that happened before my time. Like I was 16 16 interested in things like that. 17 Q. Do you know how many you need to graduate? 17 What would you say your reading level is? A. I have a really good reading level. 18 A. Twenty-six. 19 Q. Have attempted to enroll in any adult education What was your least favorite class? 19 20 programs to help finish high school? Algebra, only because I didn't understand it. 20 21 A. No. I was looking into it, but I didn't really fill 21 Did you have a hard time with math? 22 out anything. So no. 22 A. 23 Q. When you say you were looking into it, where did you What would you say your math level is? 23 24 A. I would say my math level is like middle school math 24 25 A. Like online, trying to find like somewhere that could 25 level. Like ninth grade math. When it comes to Page 43 Page 45 help me receive the rest of the credits that I need in 1 1 algebra it's like hard. 2 order to get my diploma. 2 Q. Would you say that you oftentimes fell behind on your 3 Q. Where did you look online? 3 classroom work? 4 A. I just Googled like some schools that, some online 4 A. No. Only time I fell behind was when I was schools that could help. 5 5 hospitalized, but I would still get the work done after Q. Did you do anything besides Google online schools? 6 the fact, even if I am behind. I would still try to 7 A. (Shakes head.) 7 catch up so I could receive that credit. But every Q. Was that no? 8 time I would catch up and when I was behind and turning 9 A. Yes, no. 9 the work and make sure I don't have anything that's 10 Q. So I just want to clarify for the record, so the only 10 missing, the teacher, like she wouldn't grade it or thing you did was Google some online schools; is that 11 11 anything. She would just like. 12 right? 12 Q. What documentation do you have of completing all your 13 A. Yes, correct. 13 work and the teacher not grading it? 14 Q. Do you know what programs Kalamazoo Public Schools have 14 A. Like I have emails of my teacher, of me asking my 15 15 teacher like hey, can you grade this? I have done 16 A. I don't. 16 this. What can I do to get the grade? Things of that 17 Q. How about Comstock? Do you know what programs they 17 such. Like I would communicate. 18 have for duties? 18 Q. Anything else to demonstrate that you completed all 19 A. No. 19 your work but that the teachers just didn't grade it? 20 Q. Have you asked either school district about adult 20 A. Could you rephrase that? 21 programs? 21 Q. Sure. Besides the emails, is there anything else that 22 A. I asked Comstock, but they never got back to me on 22 you have that would prove that you completed all of 23 that. And I think I asked the principal, and he was 23 your schoolwork but the teachers just didn't grade it? 24

25

saying that their programs were full I guess, that they

weren't no longer receiving anybody. I think either it

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24 A. Besides the emails I don't think I could go back into

my online portal to see like, you know. So no, I don't

OI I	
Page 94 1 judgment that MDE violated Section 504?	Page 96
2 A. I am not sure.	2 MS. HALLORAN: That's it. Nothing further.
3 Q. And how about Title II of the A.D.A.?	3 MS. KMETZ: I don't have anything. I think
4 A. I don't know.	4 we are all set.
5 Q. What does that mean?	5 MS. HALLORAN: All right. Thank you so much
6 A. I don't know.	6 for your time. It was really nice to meet you.
7 Q. In this requested relief you also ask that MDE	7 THE WITNESS: Likewise.
8 implement policies and procedures. What policies do	
9 you want MDE to implement?	8 MS. HALLORAN: I will order that, the same as 9 last time.
10 A. I don't know.	
11 Q. It says that you are asking for compensatory education.	10 (At 2:38 p.m., deposition concluded.)
12 Are you asking for additional education services?	12
13 A. Yes.	13
	13
14 Q. What services would you like?15 A. To receive my diploma.	
• •	15
16 Q. Are you looking for any additional tutoring or study	16
17 materials, anything like that?18 A. Yes.	17
18 A. Yes.19 Q. What are you looking for?	18 19
•	20
20 A. Laptop, textbooks, and writing utensils.21 Q. And what would the purpose of those be? To take	20 21
22 additional classes?	21 22
	22 23
23 A. Maybe, yes.	
Q. What enforcement do you want MDE to enact statewide?A. I don't know.	24 25
23 A. Tuontinow.	25
Page 95	Page 97
1 Q. What monitoring do you want MDE to do in the state?	1 STATE OF MICHIGAN)
2 A. I don't know.	2) SS
3 MS. HALLORAN: All right. If we could just	3 COUNTY OF KALAMAZOO)
4 take a ten-minute break, I will review my notes one	4
5 more time. I am likely done, but just a minute. We	5
6 can go back on the record at 2:40. Does that sound	6 I, certify that this transcript, consisting
7 okay?	7 of 97 pages, is a complete, true, and correct record of
8 MS. KMETZ: That will work.	8 the testimony of KE'AUJANAA SHEPHERD-FRIDAY, held in
9 (Recess taken from 2:30 p.m.	9 the case on March 26, 2024.
10 to 2:36 p.m.)	10
11 MS. HALLORAN: We are jumping back in a	11 I also certify that prior to taking this
12 little earlier than anticipated. Just one more	12 deposition, KE'AUJANAA SHEPHERD-FRIDAY, was duly sworn
13 follow-up question.	13 to tell the truth.
14 BY MS. HALLORAN:	14
15 Q. When you were in school and had to call out because you	15 Dated: 4-4-2024
were going to the hospital, do you know if your mother	16 /w/// wife.
17 called in after you were released from the hospital or	
	14 15 Dated: 4-4-2024 16 17
18 before?	18 Carl M. DePerro, CSR-4284
19 A. Called in while I was hospitalized?	18 Carl M. DePerro, CSR-4284 19 My commission expires: 10-16-25
19 A. Called in while I was hospitalized?20 Q. Yes. What communication, if you know, did your mom	18 Carl M. DePerro, CSR-4284 19 My commission expires: 10-16-25 20
 19 A. Called in while I was hospitalized? 20 Q. Yes. What communication, if you know, did your mom 21 have with the school about your absences due to your 	18 Carl M. DePerro, CSR-4284 19 My commission expires: 10-16-25 20 21
 A. Called in while I was hospitalized? Q. Yes. What communication, if you know, did your mom have with the school about your absences due to your hospitalization? 	18 Carl M. DePerro, CSR-4284 19 My commission expires: 10-16-25 20 21 22
 19 A. Called in while I was hospitalized? 20 Q. Yes. What communication, if you know, did your mom 21 have with the school about your absences due to your 22 hospitalization? 23 A. I don't know. 	18 Carl M. DePerro, CSR-4284 19 My commission expires: 10-16-25 20 21 22 23
 A. Called in while I was hospitalized? Q. Yes. What communication, if you know, did your mom have with the school about your absences due to your hospitalization? 	18 Carl M. DePerro, CSR-4284 19 My commission expires: 10-16-25 20 21 22